

Via



BIBLE-BASED READING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

EDITORIAL

The front cover shows a life buoy against a blue sky. As you read through the articles in this volume of Via you may notice that many of them are about a rescue or someone who needed to be rescued.

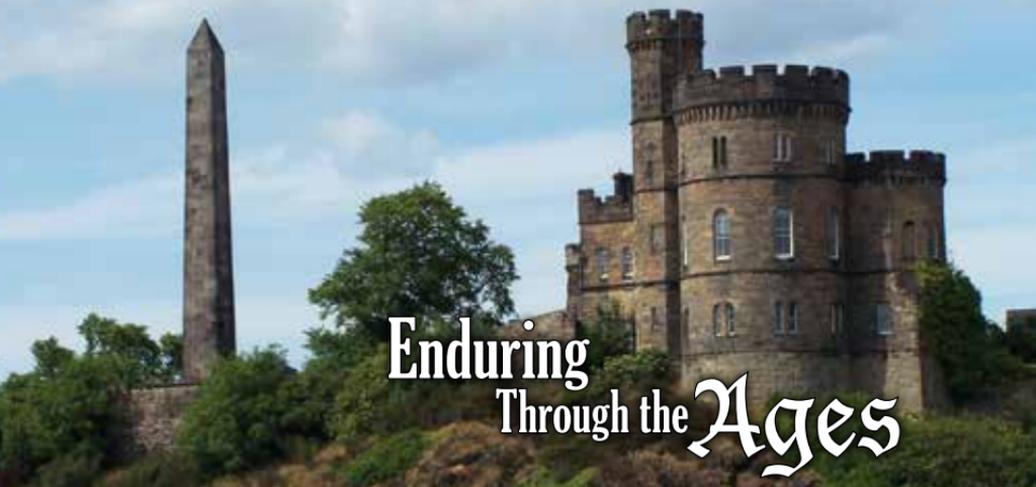
Do you sometimes feel that you need to be saved from a meaningless life? You are not alone. Read your Bible to learn more about the God who loves you and wants to rescue you. The Bible is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). All the Bible quotations in these articles are from the New King James version.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you have been saved from spending a lost eternity apart from God. You belong in God's family. He sees the righteousness of the Lord Jesus in you. However, if you have not accepted the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour, you are in need of being rescued.

There are many people who have not yet heard the good news that the Lord Jesus Christ came to this world to rescue them from their sin. Perhaps you can share this copy of Via Magazine with them.

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Enduring Through the Ages

Edinburgh Castle is built on an extinct volcano called Castle Rock and towers over the city of Edinburgh, Scotland. Just think about all the people throughout history who have viewed this magnificent castle. It has been a royal residence, a prison and an army garrison. It has been the center of numerous wars, has withstood attacks and been besieged many times. This structure has endured throughout the centuries.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland was able to present to the new Queen of England, at her coronation in 1953, something else that has endured throughout the ages. The Moderator took the Bible and gave it to Queen Elizabeth saying, “we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.”

Like Edinburgh Castle, the Bible has endured throughout the ages. It has gone through attacks and wars. Today, the Bible is available to us in many languages; on the written page, online, in audio or braille forms. It is indeed the most valuable thing in the world.

Within its pages we learn of God who created the beautiful world, and who loves us without reservation. He loves us so much that when we, the world’s people sinned, He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take the punishment we deserved.

In the Bible we meet characters who point us to Christ and then show us how to live our Christian life once we have met Him. “*The Holy Scriptures... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*” (2 Timothy 3:15). We are indeed given wisdom and wise counsel within its pages. We are shown how to live a joy-filled life. God gave us prophetic predictions: some that have been fulfilled and some that are to be accomplished in the future. In Psalm 119:89 we read, “*Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in Heaven*”. We can rely on the Bible today as it is vibrantly alive. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Bible is “*living and powerful and ... a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*”.

Have you met the Saviour? Find a Bible and read it to learn more about Him and God’s salvation.

LOVE Like That!

We live in a world where people use others for their own personal pleasure. When that pleasure is gone, they move on to someone else. A colleague of mine always used to nervously straighten up and reapply her make-up before going home to her husband. She feared him leaving her - again - and wanted to pass his inspection. It wasn't enough; he moved out for another woman. Have you felt that pain of rejection from a parent, friend or spouse? Do you feel you have to hide part of who you are to be acceptable to others?

Marvin walked very slowly with a walker over to where his wife Dorothy sat slumped in her wheelchair. Her medicated body was weary and her white head was bobbing sleepily.

A tragedy of old age? Hardly! Yes, it is sad to see someone you love suffering. The Bible tells us, *"the whole creation groans and labours ... together until now"* (Romans 8:22). That's the horrible effect of our sin and disobedience to God. But there's more to Marvin and Dorothy's story than that - and more to ours too. A caregiver, watching Marvin sitting day after day by his wife's side, hearing him call her "honey," and watching him painfully walk over to serve her every need, said, "I wish I had someone to love me like that!" Who wouldn't crave a love that keeps on flowing our way when we have nothing to give back? Thankfully, we do have Someone who loves us like that!

Marvin learned to love his wife from his Saviour, Jesus Christ. *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). We've all done many acts of disobedience to God. One, just one, 'little' lie deserves punishment by a righteous God who hates sin, and *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). But God loved us when there was nothing in us to attract His love. Marvin did not believe that he was living a tragedy. He felt that God was using his situation as part of His plan to show a love that flows from God to people like us who don't deserve it. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Will you receive, as Marvin has, the only Saviour of sinners like yourself?



Bible Truth Publishers



PAYDAY

Have you ever been given a blank, signed cheque on payday? I haven't, but it would be nice to write your own cheque, wouldn't it? On my pay cheques, and probably yours, the amount is already filled in. But we still look forward to each payday. That's because we count on our pay cheque to pay our debts, or to pay for a house, a car, food, clothes, and many other things. For many of us, it seems there's "too much month at the end of the money," but sometimes we might have some money left over to put away for the future.

We work all week, or even all month, to get our pay cheque. Then we are paid what we have earned, or according to the contract we have negotiated. But wouldn't it be nice to get a big cheque and not even have to work for it? It's possible! But, it's also possible to get a pay cheque that we wouldn't want to have.

A cheque that we wouldn't want? Yes, there are wages that I think none of us would like to earn if we had a choice – "*the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). Have you ever thought about

the end result of your sin? God says that for sinning, we earn wages, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Is death then the end? No, it is not. God's Word says, "*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). For those who are not saved, this will be the payday of God's holy wrath. The payment will be everlasting punishment in Hell, "*the fire that shall never be quenched*" (Mark 9:43).

How can we avoid the wages of death and judgment? We might think that since our sins have earned us death, our good deeds can earn us eternal life. They can't. Because of our fallen, sinful nature, even "*all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags*" in God's eyes (Isaiah 64:6). No matter how hard we work, or how hard we try, we cannot do anything to earn God's forgiveness for even one sin.

Remember the cheque I mentioned before that we don't have to work for? God has written such a cheque. It can pay for your salvation. It is not a blank cheque, though. It is already made out for a priceless amount – the price of

your soul. But don't worry about this cheque bouncing, because it is paid out of the endless riches of God's love and grace. This cheque is written with the blood of Christ, and signed by the Heavenly Father. It is dated for today, because "now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

All that you must do is put your name on God's cheque. How do you do that? You need to admit that you are a sinner, and that your sin has produced a debt that you cannot pay. You need to repent and turn from your sins to God, and believe that Jesus Christ paid for your sins by dying on the cross and rising again.

When you trust Him as your personal Saviour you can put your name in this verse: "For God so loved _____ that He gave His only begotten Son, that _____ believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

When you come to the Lord Jesus as a sinner, and by faith put your name on God's cheque of eternal salvation, you can be assured that you are His, and that you will miss the awful payday of judgment that awaits all those who have not trusted Christ.

Moments with the Book



The World War II plane dropped below the clouds. Louis Zamperini scanned the ocean for the downed bomber that had not reached its destination the day before. Suddenly, Louis felt a shudder and the engine on the far left of the plane shook violently, then stopped. The plane tipped to the left, then began to drop. Another engine failure sent the plane spiraling into

the ocean. Eight of the eleven men were killed. Louis survived 47 days on a raft. He floated over 2000 miles in the Pacific Ocean, drinking rainwater, eating birds and being circled by sharks. He promised God, "If you save me, I will serve you forever". He was rescued but the worst was yet to come.

His rescue became his capture. He spent two years as a Japanese prisoner

of war, enduring constant torture. One guard, nicknamed 'The Bird', singled Louis out and took a twisted delight in making his life a miserable existence. Louis remained unbroken, focusing all his efforts on staying alive.

When the war ended and he returned home, Louis' life was a mess. He was a broken man. Flashbacks, nightmares, alcoholism, violence and anger culminated in one quest - to find 'The Bird' and kill him.

A preacher was having meetings in a tent nearby and reluctantly, Louis was persuaded to attend. He heard how God was interested in him, how God works miracles in peoples' lives and what God asks of men is that they have faith in Him.

There were many instances in his past where Louis could see that his life had been miraculously spared. When he heard that God wants man's faith, he felt angry to the point of violence and stood up to leave. The promise he had made to God on the raft flashed into his mind. He stopped, turned around and committed his life to Christ. At home, he poured all his liquor down the sink and slept peacefully for the first time in five years. In the morning, he felt cleansed and began reading his Bible. He had no more nightmares or flashbacks and instead of wanting to kill 'The Bird', he felt compassion and forgiveness towards him. He returned to Japan and met with hundreds of prison guards, forgiving them. When they saw his genuine love for those who had treated him so badly, many turned to Christ.

What brought about this drastic change in Louis' life? Faith in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*". As he committed his life to serving Christ, fulfilling the promise he had made, he became like the One he followed. On the cross, the Lord Jesus forgave those who were crucifying Him (Luke 23:34). He offers forgiveness to all today, even though we are enemies of God. "*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). Will you accept His forgiveness and commit your life to Him? He will not disappoint you. He will make you a new creation.

Louis Zamperini followed Christ until his death in July 2014, at 97 years of age.

Hidden Life Buoy



We live in a busy, messy world. We need to be rescued from our sin. The Bible tells us that before we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, "*we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags*" (Isaiah 64:6). The Lord Jesus calls us to come to Him and be saved. We have hidden a picture of a life buoy, which is used to save someone from drowning, somewhere in the magazine. See if you can find it!

Send your name and address to Via Magazine, Box 551, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3B9 Canada. Tell us where you found the life buoy and we will send you a small prize.



Blood

In Him to Give

The ringing phone interrupted Dave's quiet evening. He glanced at the call display and saw a regular caller - Blood Services. Their motto flashed through his mind; 'Blood-it's in you to give', and he knew he had a coveted blood type for donation. He had been putting it off for months, and as he thought of the coming week, he just didn't feel like adding something extra to his schedule. With a twinge of guilt, he let the machine pick up the message, then he hit delete.

Across the city in the emergency room of the hospital, a patient lay helpless, badly injured after a vehicle accident. A blood transfusion had been ordered urgently in order to save her life and stabilize her for surgery. Two nurses checked and double checked the patient's name, birthdate, health number and blood type, making sure she received the right blood. To receive the wrong blood could prove as fatal as not getting it at all.

Each person on this earth faces

death in a helpless state. Our sin separates us from a holy God and our sinful nature prevents us from being with God after we die. There was only one way for this to be resolved. Blood had to be shed and a sacrifice had to be made in our place. Someone had to be willing to give their life and blood so we could live. It couldn't be just anyone - it had to be someone without sin and there was only one candidate. Jesus Christ as the perfect Son of God had the perfect blood match for every sinful person. He was the only available donor and He was a willing donor. He did not ignore our need but willingly went to the cross and shed His blood for our sins. "*The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*" (1 John 1:7).

His blood has been given. Now we need to apply it to our need and sin, so God can see us as fit to enter Heaven with Him. We need to receive a blood transfusion as it were and thank Him for what He has done for us. Blood - it was in Him to give...and He gave it.



Like any city in the hours before dawn, Christchurch, New Zealand outwardly was quiet and asleep. But strange things were happening in this city – and most of them had to do with animals. Many a family couldn't sleep because their normally quiet dog continually barked, demanding to be let out then back in again. Cat owners were wakened to find that their cat was batting them on the face with a paw! A family wondered why its pet rabbit kept bringing its back foot down with loud, rhythmic thumps. And in many households, families had gone to bed distressed because their loved dog or cat had disappeared.

Things were strange, too, out in the countryside. A farmer, bringing his herd in for milking, stared in disbelief as the cows – all 500 of them – suddenly sat down as though the legs had been cut out from under them. Another farmer had just risen to let his agitated dog outside, and he stood for

a moment in his doorway. Suddenly, the birds in the nearby hedge started to chirp loudly, the neighbour's pigs began to squeal, and his own cows to bellow. Then, just as suddenly, all went dead quiet. He stood there, unnerved.... Something did happen, in the early morning hours a terrifying 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit the area. Somehow the animals had sensed the coming disaster. No one knows exactly what it is that creatures sense at such a time, although there are theories. What we do know is that the Creator Himself has implanted in animal creation a sensory awareness that you and I know nothing of.

Nothing can prevent an earthquake, even if people could know it was coming. So it is in eternal things. God's judgment is coming on this sinful world and nothing will prevent it. In Acts 17:31 we read, "*He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness*".

In 1995, a major earthquake struck in Japan. Hippopotami in the zoo submerged themselves in their pool - and stayed under! The zoo staff eventually had to drain the pool to “rescue” them. You can’t immerse yourself, even in religion, hoping to hide from God’s wrath. He’ll drain your pool! Neither can you flee, or fly away, as birds have often been seen to do before a big earthquake.

The Christchurch animals’ behaviour could have served as a warning to their owners. The problem was that the people didn’t realize this until afterwards. Ah, **afterwards** – when it was too late. But God doesn’t leave us puzzled or worried like the animals’ owners, then condemn us when it’s too late to be saved.

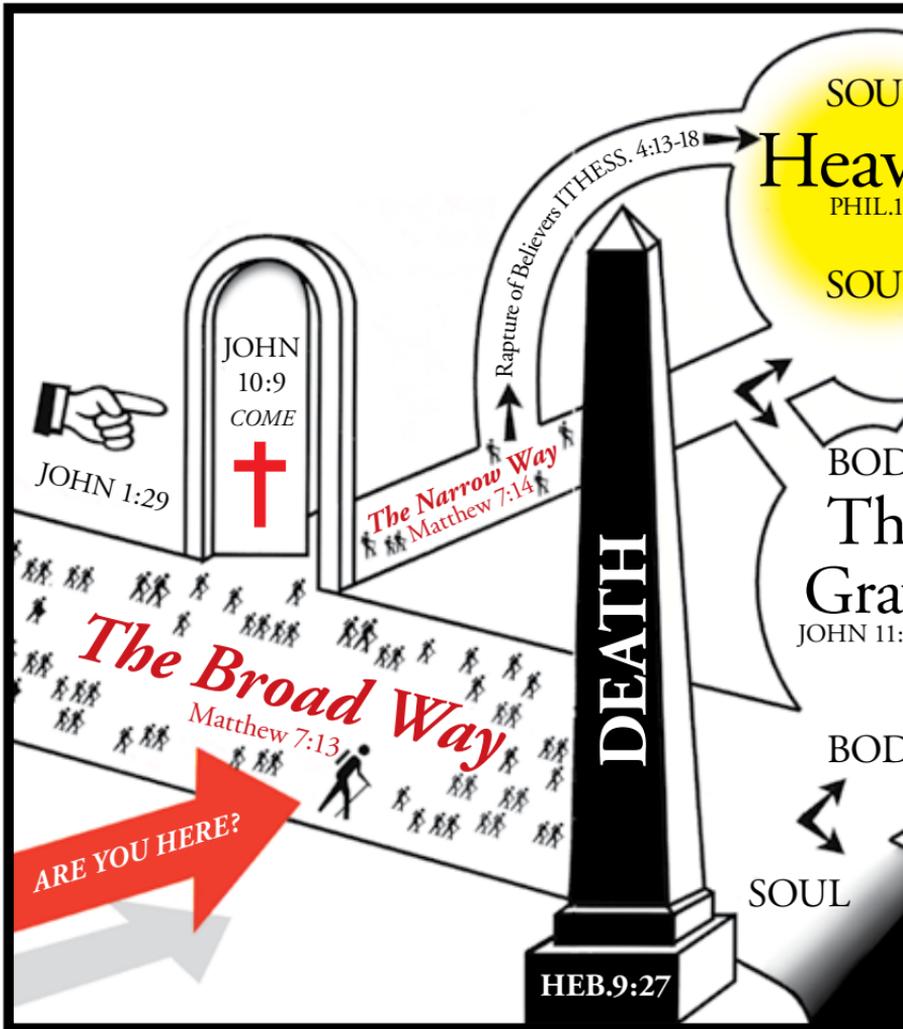
- ◆ God speaks with unmistakable clarity through His Word, the Bible. He warns of coming judgment and tells us what we need to do about it. “*God ... now commands all men everywhere to repent*” (Acts 17:30).
- ◆ God speaks through creation, Romans 1:19-20 says, “*...God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made ...so that they are without excuse.*”
- ◆ God has implanted in every person an “internal warning system”. It’s called conscience. It means that you know when you have sinned.
- ◆ God often uses circumstances; many have testified to a tragic or traumatic event that led them to trust the saving power of Christ’s death.

As with any major earthquake, many strong aftershocks occurred in Christchurch. Some dog owners came to recognise the signs of a coming shake. One person’s dog began a particular low growl that reached a crescendo before a major shake; another took to licking its owner’s hand. One dog barked all of the night before the first earthquake, then did the same on a subsequent night, prior to a major aftershock. When it barked the third time, the family recognized the signal. They arranged to stay home the next day – and were comforted to be together when, sure enough, another big shake came. **They heeded the warning.** God’s word tells us, “*God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it*” (Job 33:14). We ignore His voice at our peril. “*How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*” (Hebrews 2:3).

Those who live in earthquake-prone areas are regularly reminded to be prepared. But, in spite of the best preparation, when the earthquake comes, you can but hope for the best. That’s what many souls do when it comes to their future beyond life – they hope for the best! That won’t do! Listen to the Lord Jesus Christ’s promise to those who trust Him: “*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish*” (John 10:28). Tell me, why would you not come to the Saviour today and accept His guarantee of safety and security before it is too late?

L MThompson

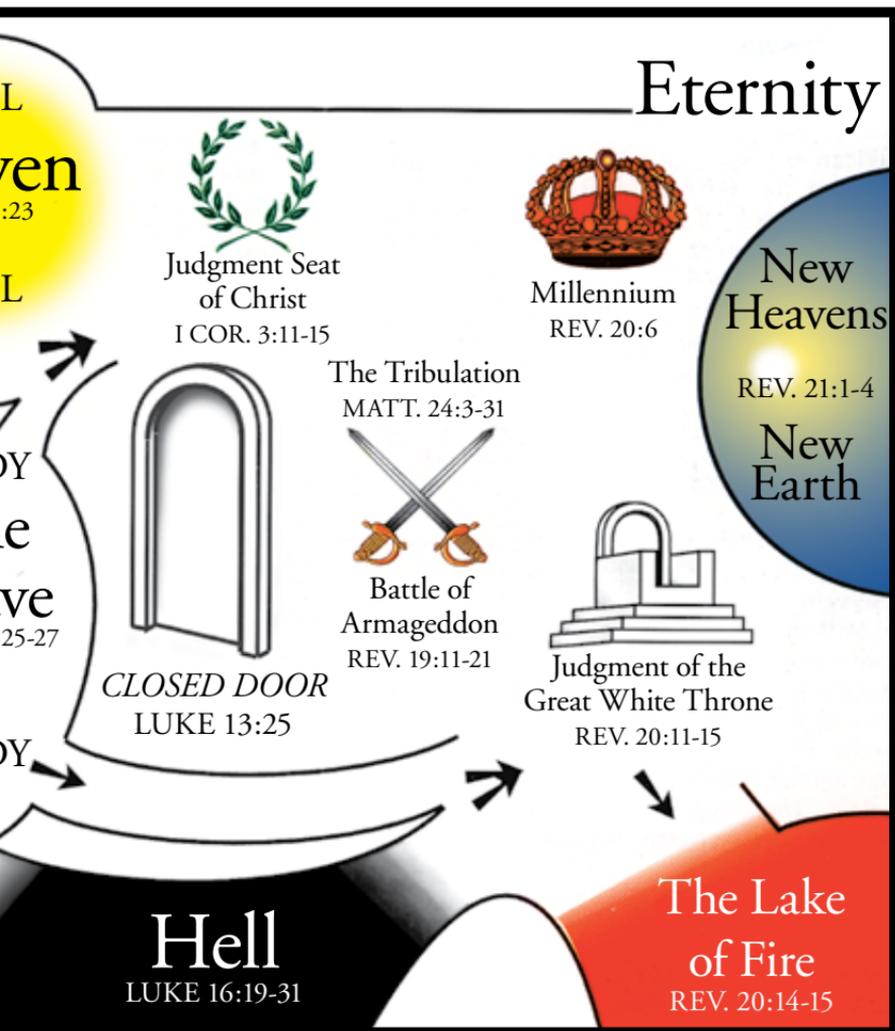
TWO ROADS AND TWO DESTINIES



This chart depicts the two roads referred to in Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate...which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” We are all on either the **Broad Way** or the **Narrow Way** - there is no middle path. Death crosses both the Broad

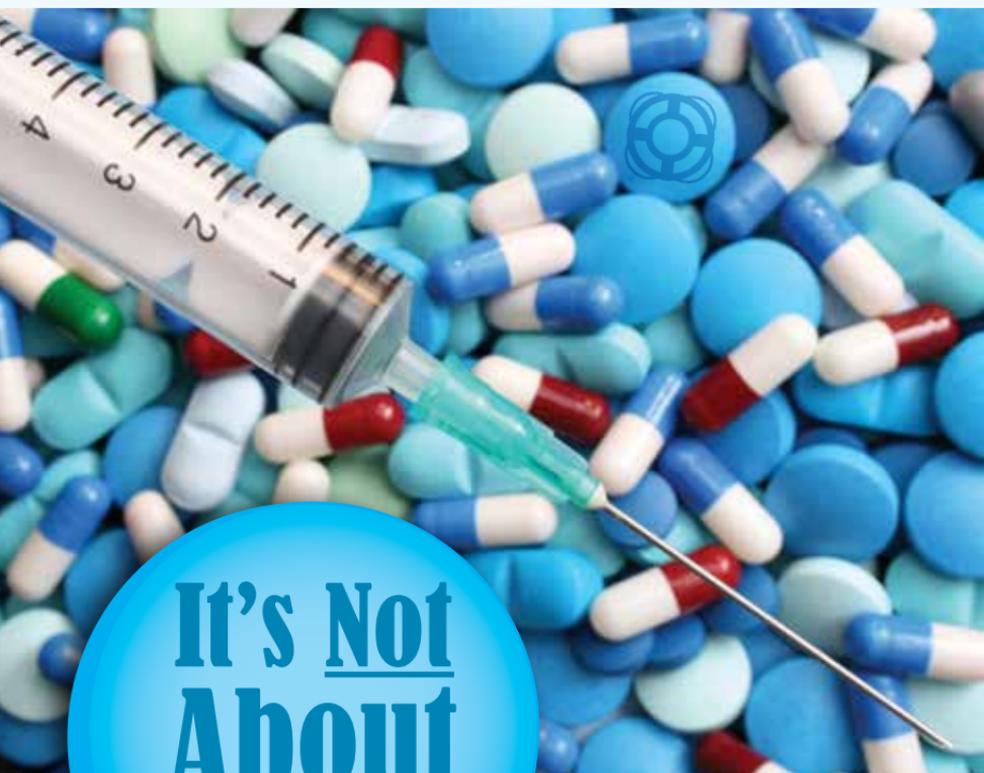
and Narrow Way. The bodies of both believers (those who have accepted Christ as Saviour) and unbelievers (those who have not received Christ) go to the **Grave**. The believer’s soul goes to **Heaven**; the soul of the unbeliever to **Hell**. The **Rapture**, when Christ returns to the air and “catches up” all living believers, could happen at any time. When this takes place, the bodies

TINIES CHART



and souls of those believers who have already died will be reunited to stand before the **Judgment Seat of Christ**, where their lives will be evaluated and rewarded. Then begins a seven-year period called the **Tribulation** in which judgment occurs on the earth, culminating in the **Battle of Armageddon**. The Tribulation will be followed by the **Millennium**, when Christ will reign

on the earth for 1,000 years. At the end of this period, the bodies of unbelievers will be resurrected and reunited with their souls to stand at the **Judgment of the Great White Throne**, and then cast into the **Lake of Fire** for eternal punishment. **New Heavens** and a **New Earth** will then be created which will last for eternity. **On which road are you?**



It's Not About Me

I am Michael Da Silva, Sr. My parents immigrated to Canada from Europe with four sons. My twin and I were born in Toronto.

I am thankful for honest, hardworking parents who sent us to church almost every Sunday. I like to look back at my childhood as a time of innocence. However, by the time I was 16 years old I had overdosed on drugs.

One night after a rock concert, my friends abandoned me. The police

arrested me. They later admitted that they were very close to shooting me because I was extremely violent toward them. They took me to a mental health facility, as they thought I was an escaped patient. I was assessed by the doctor who directed the police to rush me to the nearest hospital for toxic treatment.

After that incident, I stopped using drugs cold turkey for a while. I soon thought that I could control myself by being careful with the doses I took.

I married a beautiful girl and within four years, we were both working, had a place of our own and two baby boys. I really thought I had my act together and was in perfect control, but I was certainly wrong about that.

I started to see old friends again and began to dabble in the things that almost destroyed me in the past. One night, I mixed alcohol with drugs. I fell off a second story balcony and broke my right arm. I was working as a tradesman. I had a hefty mortgage, lots of bills to pay and was unable to work. I learned how to make moonshine. I was a drug addict AND a bootlegger; but, I still thought that I had everything under control.

One night, I needed a fix so I used a washroom in a restaurant in downtown Toronto. My key chain just happened to fall on the counter and one of my baby boy's pictures seemed to stare at me. I thought, "If I keep going this way, what kind of a father will I be, and how long will I be around for my wife and kids"? I looked into the mirror and plainly said: "Oh God, help me!"

During this time my wife had a friend who would constantly invite us to come and hear someone speak at her church. At first I was definitely NOT INTERESTED; but she was so kind to my wife and children that I decided to go and listen to the message.

This is where I'd like to stop talking about myself and tell you what I heard that night. The message was from the Bible. It was the story of God and His love for all mankind.

The speaker was at the door shaking everyone's hand and thanking them for coming. When it was my turn, I actually tried to avoid him but he shook my hand and asked me if I was saved. I told him that I didn't understand what he meant. He rephrased the question,

"If you should get into a car accident tonight and are ushered into eternity, where will your soul be - in Heaven or in Hell?"

The speaker told me God's great message is that I could be saved through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ paid the price for sin and willingly died on the cross at Calvary. He was taken from the cross and buried, and on the third day He rose again.

The man further asked me if I believed I was a sinner. I had no problem admitting to that. That night we read a few verses from the Bible together such as: "*This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief*" (1 Timothy 1:15). And, "*if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*" (Romans 10:9). That night I realized two things. I realized that I was a guilty sinner before God and that Jesus Christ died on a cross, was buried and rose again to save my soul from a lost eternity.

There is so much more I could tell you about my testimony, but this story is really not about me, it's about what God has done for me and what He can do for you. God will never force salvation upon you but He will never reject you if you will come to Him just as you are. The Lord Jesus said: "*the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out*" (John 6:37). Will you come to Him now?

heaven4sure

We Are All Special to God

Every cow has a special place on a farm. When a cow or calf dies it is noticed. Blackie lived on Farmer Richard's ranch with her healthy and happy calf. Up in the barn was a hungry, sad, orphaned calf.

Blackie's calf unexpectedly died on a dark and rainy night. Without her calf, Blackie was lonely and sad. Scent is very important to mother cows, so no other calf could take the place of her calf because others do not smell the same.

Farmer Richard had learned how to help his herd. He sent one of his sons to take the skin from the dead calf and put it on the orphan in the barn. Because Blackie's calf died and its skin was given to the orphan, the orphan lived. When Blackie went to smell the orphaned calf, it smelled like her own calf. Blackie accepted the calf as her own. She fed and protected this calf as if it was the one she had given birth to last week.

Just as every cow and calf is special on a farm, so every person is special to God. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die on the cross for our sins. It says in John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"*.

We must ask God to forgive us for all our sins believing that the Lord Jesus' precious blood will make us completely clean. When God forgives us, our sins are washed away. Then when God looks at us, He sees the work of His Son, and

He accepts us as His own children. While the Lord Jesus was on earth big crowds of people followed Him to hear His words. People brought their children to the Lord Jesus but the disciples told them off. Because the Lord Jesus loved the children, they were special to Him, He said to the disciples, *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them"* (Matthew 19:14). When we are the children of God, He will look after us because we are His own. He will always be there for us. *"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9). He loves us more than anyone else ever could.



“TEEN TALK”

The Real Thing

We hear a lot about social media in the news. Some recent suicides have been attributed to online bullying. Sometimes we dwell on nasty things we read about other people, even if we have never even met them because it makes us feel slightly better about our own lives.

We can meet many friends online. But we may have a big surprise if we ever meet in person because we can portray ourselves as we want to be, hiding all our irritating habits and issues.

In a school, the police gave a presentation about social media. Before attending the presentation the constable obtained the names of the students from the school. Using social media, the female constable then created a fake male identity. She, posing as a male, invited the students to be her friends. Many of the students accepted the friendship. During the discussion the students learned that the male they had befriended was actually the female constable. She was pointing out to the students that you cannot trust everyone online.

Trust is something of great value. Hopefully each of you has someone in your life that you can trust with your secrets. The Bible tells us, *“A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter”* (Proverbs

11:13). Throughout the Bible we learn about God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a Friend we can trust – absolutely! He is perfect. The Bible does not say anything untrue nor does it exaggerate any details about the Lord Jesus. There is nothing negative about Him. *“Those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You”* (Psalm 9:10).

We can be honest with the Lord Jesus Christ and allow Him to see us as we really are. He accepts us in spite of our sin and failure. He has promised

We can be honest with the Lord Jesus Christ and allow Him to see us as we really are.

to forgive our sin and accept us with unfailing love. He will never share our story with anybody else. He is a special friend.

One day, we don’t know when, the Lord Jesus is returning to this world to take all the Christians to be with Him. We don’t know when we may breathe our last and be ushered into eternity. It is most important that we know the Saviour personally before it is too late! What we learn about the Saviour from the Bible will not be contradicted at all when we meet Him in person in Eternity.



It was the pinnacle of his career as an astronaut. Chris Hadfield had been selected as the first Canadian to be commander of the International Space Station (ISS). After watching the moon landing as a boy of nine, he had one focus - to be an astronaut. He worked hard to get there, becoming an engineer, a fighter pilot and a test pilot before reaching his goal.

As commander of the ISS, Hadfield was ultimately responsible for the safety of the crew and spacecraft. Thousands followed him on Twitter, enthralled by his experiences, which most could only dream about. His was a job few in the world are experienced to do. The temptation to feel superior would be great, yet while feeling proud of his accomplishments, his humility is impressive. He recalls one time spending three hours on the ISS taking apart the toilet which had malfunctioned. Commander, yet plumber. He constantly put the needs of others above his own, like a true leader. His willingness to do menial tasks along the way contributed to his success.

Jesus Christ, the one by whom all things were created (Colossians 1:16)

and who upholds "*all things by the word of His power*" (Hebrews 1:3), humbled Himself and came to the earth He had created. He "*made Himself of no reputation*", took on Himself the form of a man and "*became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross*" (Philippians 2: 7-8). He was our only hope of salvation. He did not think it beneath Him to come and be among those He had created, even be rejected by them (John 1:11). He knew there was no other way we could be saved.

The greatest example of humility led to the greatest promotion. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, "*has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*" (Philippians 2:9-11). Whether you want a relationship with Jesus Christ or not, you will bow to Him someday, acknowledging Him to be who He really is. Will you acknowledge Him out of love and gratitude to Him as your Lord and Saviour, or out of fear of Him as your judge?

Eleven-year old Miguel Calehr was preparing for another long trip to Bali, Indonesia to see his grandmother. In spite of the fun and beaches that Bali offered, Miguel was not happy. His mother couldn't understand. According to a CNN report, Miguel kept asking his mother what would happen if the plane crashed, what would happen to his soul if he died, and what should he say to God if he saw Him? His mother, unfamiliar with such questions, assured him everything would be fine. The night before his flight left, Miguel would not leave his mother. On the morning of July 17, 2014 at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport as he stood with his older brother in the passport control line, Miguel ran back to embrace his mother, and said "I'll miss you!"

In the departure lounge, when Miguel and his older brother heard the boarding announcement they joined the other 281 passengers and crew on Flight MH 17. The passengers relaxed as the plane rose to flight altitude. Suddenly about two hours into the flight, as they crossed eastern Ukraine, the plane exploded in a large fireball! Gravity pulled luggage, personal effects, airplane parts and all 298 bodies of the passengers and crew to the farm fields below. Everyone on board the plane died.

Miguel had sensed his need and wanted to prepare to meet God. How sad if no one told him how to prepare. The world is filled with people who do

not care about being prepared or try to assure themselves that everything will be all right. Miguel's short life reminds us that our futures are not secure – we could suddenly meet God face to face today! It may not be through the crash of a plane but we don't know when our time on earth will end. Are we prepared to meet Him? The Bible says, "*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). However, God has provided a way of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6). When you meet God, will you be welcomed by a loving Father or judged because you have neglected the great salvation He has provided? The Bible says, "*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" (2 Corinthians 6:2).



What if...?

The Red River churns its restless way through Winnipeg, Canada. It meets the Assiniboine River at The Forks so it is especially tumultuous at that point. An off-duty police officer was beside the river on a very hot August day. With his ability to pay attention to detail, he noticed a man struggling in the water. Because of the churning waters, the police officer could not rescue the drowning man but he alerted the captain of a nearby water taxi.

All river service captains are trained in water rescue. The taxi captain, with the few passengers on board, went to rescue the distressed man. In the heat of the day and with the exertion of throwing a life preserver and using a rescue hook to aid the drowning man, the captain suffered a heart attack. He was lying on the floor of the taxi, unable to help himself or anyone else.

The passengers alerted the Winnipeg Police Water Patrol Boat. They came to assist and were able to take the taxi captain to meet medical help at a nearby dock.

The captain survived; however, the

man in the water disappeared beneath the waves and was lost.

We are in need of rescue too. Because of sin in our lives, we are lost, perishing sinners who cannot be in God's presence. *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8). We need a saviour. Our saviour needs to be living and capable of saving us. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, lived a perfect, sinless life. He went to the cross of Calvary and bore God's punishment on our behalf. He was the only One who was able to take our punishment. *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

The Lord Jesus Christ died, then rose again after three days. He is alive and calls to each one to come. *"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). Any person who calls out for rescue, will be saved. He is a Saviour who is capable of saving any who will come to Him. Trust in the Lord Jesus while there is time. Don't delay!



CAPABLE SAVIOUR



Jesus LOVES ME

“Jesus Loves Me” is perhaps the best-known Gospel song in the world especially to children. You have probably sung it many times, but have you ever paid attention to what it says? Do you believe it? Have you trusted Jesus as Saviour?

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.*

Jesus loves you more than anybody else ever has, or ever will. We know it is true, because the Bible says “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends*” (John 15:13). Jesus, the one who had power to create the world, died for the sins of the world.

When the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again three days later, He opened the way to Heaven that was closed to us because of all the wrong things we do. Now He wants us to come.

Some people might stop loving us when we do wrong things, but Jesus loves even the worst sinner in the world, and wants everyone to come to Him for salvation.

Even after people had made fun of Jesus, beaten Him, pushed a crown

made out of thorns into His head, and nailed His hands and feet to a cross, He looked at them in love and said, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*” (Luke 23:34).

*Jesus loves me, He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
If I trust Him, by and by,
He will take me home on high.*

When you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, He washes away your sin and promises that you will live forever with Him in Heaven. Until then, He will be your closest friend, never leaving you. By living your life for Jesus, and by reading your Bible and praying, He will give you the richest blessings and truest happiness that you could ever have. Plus, when hard times come, He will be right there to help you through them.

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!*

Can you say that Jesus loves ME?
Have you trusted Him as your Saviour?

Moments with the Book

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